

# Industrialization

Take two column notes on the following two pages from the textbook, *United States History and Geography: Modern Times*.

## LESSON 1

### The Rise of Industry

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** *How did the United States become an industrialized society after the Civil War?*

#### IT MATTERS BECAUSE

American business and industry grew rapidly after the end of the Civil War. Industrialization changed the way people lived and worked.

#### The United States Industrializes

**GUIDING QUESTION** *Why was the United States successful at industrialization?*

Although the First Industrial Revolution reached the United States in the early 1800s, most Americans still lived on farms when the Civil War began in 1861. After the war, industry rapidly expanded, and millions of Americans left their farms to work in mines and factories as part of the Second Industrial Revolution.

Building on the advances of the First Industrial Revolution, the Second Industrial Revolution was characterized by an increase in technology. This was primarily due to advances in electrification after 1890. By the late 1800s, the United States was the world's leading industrial nation. Its **gross national product** (GNP)—the total value of all goods and services that a country produces during a year—was growing faster than it ever had before.

#### Natural Resources

An abundance of raw materials was one reason for the nation's industrial success. The United States had vast natural **resources**, including timber, coal, iron, and copper. This meant that American companies could obtain resources cheaply and did not have to import them from other countries. Many of these resources were located in the American West. The settlement of the West helped accelerate industrialization, as did the transcontinental railroad. Railroads took settlers and miners to the West and carried resources back to the East.



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At the same time, people began using a new resource: petroleum. Even before the automotive age, petroleum was in high demand because it could be turned into kerosene. The American oil industry was built on the demand for kerosene, a fuel used in lanterns and stoves. The industry began in western Pennsylvania, where residents had long noticed oil bubbling to the surface of area springs and streams. In 1859 Edwin Drake drilled the first oil well near Titusville, Pennsylvania, and by 1900, oil fields had been drilled from Pennsylvania to Texas. A rise in oil production led to economic expansion.

### A Large Workforce

The human resources available to American industry were as important as natural resources in enabling the nation to industrialize rapidly. Between 1860 and 1910, the population of the United States nearly tripled. This population growth provided industry with an abundant workforce and created greater demand for consumer goods.

Population growth stemmed from two sources—large families and a flood of immigrants. Because of better living conditions, more children survived and grew to adulthood. Social and economic conditions in parts of Europe and China convinced many people to immigrate to the United States in search of a better life. Some were seeking to escape oppressive governments and religious persecution. Between 1870 and 1910, more than 17 million immigrants arrived in the United States. Norwegian immigrant Andreas Ueland arrived in 1871:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

"Father died in January, 1870. That changed abruptly my whole aspect of life. An older brother was to have the farm after Mother; what was I to do? . . . There was left the choice to stay home and wait for something to turn up, go out as a laborer or to learn a trade, or to sea, or to America!"

—from *Recollections of an Immigrant*

#### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Summarizing** What were two significant factors in the growth of U.S. industry?